

CLASSIFICATION SECRET -COUNTRY East Germany

REPORT

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TOPIC Military Activities of the Mechanized Division Potsdam

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EVALUATION PLACE OBTAINED.

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DATE OF CONTEI

DATE PREPARED September 1955 25X1

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REFERENCES

PAGES 3 ENCLOSURES (NO. & TYPE)

REMARKS

This is UNEVALUATED Information

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1. On 21 July 1955, a KVP At unit with 4 x 57-mm AT guns which came from the direction of Potsdam was observed at aiming practices northeast of the Kartow-Fahrland road. The gun emplacements, which were not echeloned, extended over 150 meters.
2. On 28 July 1955, 5 platoons were seen in the yards of the Ruinenberg Kaserne in Potsdam practicing with rifles, and another platoon with submachine guns. All soldiers, apparently recruits, wore medium-blue collar patches. Several details, each consisting of 3 men, left the installation by the Fappelalle exit with prismatic compasses, rifles and light equipment in the direction of Ruinenberg. The installation was entered by 6 trucks each carrying 18 KVP soldiers whose rifles and submachine guns were carefully stowed away so as to hide them from passers-by. It was noticed recently that the KVP units generally carried their automatic weapons in cases or wrapped in shelter halves.
3. On 4 August 1955, 2 companies with several heavy machine guns were seen at the Bornstedter Feld doing attack exercises. On 9 August, 12 trucks each carrying 18 men left the Ruinenberg Kaserne for the target ranges at the Marquardter Chaussee.
4. On 11 August 1955, 8 trucks each carrying 18 men, and 1 field kitchen left the Ruinenber Kaserne in the direction of Bornim. On 13 August, only a fatigue detail was seen at the barracks yard. The windows of the billeting quarters were open; the beds were without linen as far as could be seen. With the exception of a guard detail, the whole occupation of the installation had apparently been transferred.
5. In early August 1955, the Garde-Du-Corps Kaserne was occupied by approximately 200 KVP soldiers. Drill and aiming practices with 3 x 37-mm AAA guns were occasionally observed. On 11 and 13 August, only light activities were noticed in the installation. The vehicle sheds were open and empty. It is believed that, except for a guard detail, the unit had transferred to Altengrabow.<sup>2</sup>
6. On 29 July 1955, 10 trucks each loaded with 18 men wearing medium-blue service color, and 2 trucks each carrying 8 men with red-bordered black service color

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and towing a 57-mm AT gun, left the General Wever Kaserne for the target ranges at the Marquardter Chaussee. The same number of trucks, also occupied by military personnel, entered the installation on 5 August and left it on 12 August.<sup>3</sup>

7. According to a KVP officer on 29 July, the regiment stationed in the Ruinenberg Kaserne had been transferred to the Klietz training grounds in late June and early July where a new form of attack was practiced under the guidance of 2 Soviet officers. He continued that elements of this unit including SP guns had repeatedly returned to the installation for a few days. On 13 August, the officer mentioned that the whole regiment was still at the training grounds and that the major part of the garrison was in summer camps at present.<sup>1 and 2</sup>
8. On 29 July 1955, the ration strength of the General Wever Kaserne allegedly consisted of 1,250 men of whom only 800 to 850 men were said to belong to the unit stationed in the installation. It was learned on 13 August that one company was detached daily from the installation for helping the farmers with the harvest.<sup>3</sup>
9. On 14 August 1955, approximately 12 new target ranges as well as 1 large and 1 small low wooden building were noticed 4 kilometers north of Michendorf, east of the Potsdam-Klietz road.
10. In late July and early August 1955, the occupation of the Garde-Du-Corps Kaserne was estimated at approximately 250 men. Small details, presumably recruits were repeatedly observed at marching practices.
11. In the evening of 4 August 1955, a column of approximately 25 trucks with pontoons and 2 motor-boats, and approximately 106 KVP soldiers passed through Brandenburg. The column came from the direction of Rathenow and went in the direction of Potsdam.
12. In early August 1955, the occupation of the barracks installation in Premnitz was estimated at 300 to 350 men. An additional 400 to 450 soldiers were transferred to a tent camp in the Fehrbell-Mahlitz area on 15 July. After 15 July, some trucks of the unit were seen proceeding from Premnitz in the direction of Neue Schleuse and back. The KVP soldiers left in the installation were observed at fatigue duty and at firing and signalling practices at the Premnitz-Moegelin training site. They wore red-bordered black collar patches.<sup>4</sup>
13. During 11 August 1955, the two artillery units returned to the KZ Oranienburg from an exercise allegedly held in the Magdeburg area.<sup>5</sup>
14. Elements of the tank units were still being rotated to the Lehnitz Forst for 14-day terrain and firing exercises.<sup>5</sup>
15. On 25/26 July 1955, an artillery and an engineer unit with a total strength of several hundred KVP soldiers were detrained at the Gross-Wudicke railroad station. The artillery unit, which left for the Mahlitz area, consisted of 26 trucks and 26 guns, presumably 122-mm howitzers, and the engineer unit consisted of 30 trucks and approximately 30 steel pontoons.<sup>6</sup>

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16. In late July 1955, the bulk of the units stationed at the Ferchels-Mahlitz training grounds was observed at the Ferchels-Mahlitz-Neuwartensleten and the Hohengoerenerdamm-Schoenhausenerdamm areas. Firing practices with heavy weapons were held at the Ferchels-Mahlitz-Neuartenstein area nearly every day. Several hundred KVP soldiers with medium-blue, blue-bordered black, and red-bordered black service colors were repeatedly seen doing drill exercises at company level in other parts of the Ferchels-Mahlitz training grounds. Drilling instruction was also occasionally seen. 7

1. Comment. Apparently the units of the 2d Mecc Reg who had remained at the Kuinenberg Kaserne were also transferred to the training site east of Klietz.

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2. Comment. Elements of the AAA Regiment Potsdam, presumably the senior personnel, transferred to Altengrabow in June [redacted] and possibly from there to the training site east of Klietz in early July. It is believed that the recruits who had remained at the installation were also transferred to the training site.

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3. Comment. The reconnaissance battalion of the Division which transferred to the training site east of Klietz on 11 July, apparently returned to post in the meantime.

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4. Comment. According to information available, the Mortar Regiment of the Division is stationed in Fremnitz.

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5. Comment. The departure of the units was previously reported.

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6. Comment. This artillery unit is presumably identical with approximately 2 battalions of the Howitzer Artillery Regiment of the Division stationed in Goeven.

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7. Comment. Concerning the drill exercises at company level see paragraph 7 of this report.

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